

Tennessee Pollution Prevention Partnership Success Story



Alpha Intermediate School
5620 Old Hwy 11-E
Morristown TN 37814
423-586-3332

www.hcboe.net/Main/School/AI/aiindex.html



Alpha Expands Recycling Program

The Member

Alpha Elementary School, with a staff of 48, serves 670 students in grades K-5. The school's emphases include academic excellence, service learning, parental involvement, and environmental stewardship. These areas complement the school's mission to produce responsible, successful members of society and the school's vision of "A World Class Education – Right Here at Home."

The Story

In 2002, the primary and intermediate schools, located next door to each other, combined to become Alpha Elementary School. The environmental efforts, which were already integrated at the intermediate school when it became a Green School Partner, included a successful recycling and composting program. When the two schools merged, the systems had to be expanded to the lower grades. The challenges included funding for new bins to be placed inside the primary building, additional outdoor receptacles, and educating students and staff about composting and recycling.

Grants, PTO support, and business partners provided funding to purchase all needed recycling equipment.

Alpha's environmental efforts are supported by education in the classroom. Science and health classes learn about natural resource conservation and recycling. The cafeteria manager teaches the classes every year about composting food scraps, and the compost is used in campus gardens. The TN Solid Waste Education Project visited the 4th grade this year. Alpha's website includes information about its environmental initiatives and Love our Earth Program through podcasts that are available to the public. The Funky Art contest, sponsored by the local Keep America Beautiful chapter, was a county-wide contest where students made projects out of would-be trash. An Alpha student won second place in the county.

The Success

The Morristown *Citizen Tribune* continues to pick up newspapers from a large bin they provided for the

school and the local community, paying \$15/ton to the school. Starting in the 2007-08 school year, cardboard recycling has become a regular part of our recycling program. We recycle notebook paper, copy paper, and all other mixed papers. Plastic bottles, aluminum cans, and steel cans from the cafeteria are also part of our recycling program. The City of Morristown assists us by picking up all our recyclables. Printer cartridges are collected from the school, local businesses, and families – this is a fundraiser for the school.



Funky Art Contest Winners

The Pollution Prevented

In 2007-08 we recycled 1.55 tons of newspapers. We recycled about 2.5 cubic yards of cardboard each month. In 2007-08 we recycled 300 sixty-gallon bags of paper; 120 sixty-gallon bags of plastic bottles; and 75 sixty-gallon bags of aluminum cans. We continue to receive recognition for the Love our Earth Program and the environmental stewardship that is fostered in Alpha students.

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